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Title : The Speaker made reference to the passing away of Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, a sitting member of Rajya Sabha and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Union Cabinet Minister, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh.

Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh was a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences.

Shri Deshmukh was also a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1980 to 1995 and from 1999 to 2009. He served as Minister of various Departments in the Government of Maharashtra during 1982-85 and 1986-1995.

Shri Deshmukh held the Office of Chief Minister of Maharashtra for two terms from 1999 to 2003 and from 2004 to 2008.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Deshmukh also served as the Union Cabinet Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises from 2009 to 2011 and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj during 2011.

Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh passed away on 14 August 2012 at Chennai at the age of 67.

We deeply mourn the loss of our friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.01 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 17th August, 2012 at 11 a.m.

11.02 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Friday, August 17, 2012/Sravana 26, 1934 (Saka). [r1]

[r1] Friday, March 10, 2000/Phalguna 20, 1921 (Saka).